



AFTER THE STORM

FLOOD WATER SAFETY

Emergency Information: 1-800-342-3557 • floridadisaster.org



Flood Waters Can be Contaminated with Bacteria and Viruses

Avoid skin contact with flood waters especially if you have open cuts and wounds.

- Do not wade through standing water. If you do, wash your body and put on clean clothes.
- If an open cut or wound comes into contact with flood waters, wash the area well with soap and clean water to prevent infection. If the area develops redness, swelling or drainage, seek immediate medical attention.
- If you are cut or have puncture wound, and have not had a tetanus vaccination within the past 5 years, you need a tetanus booster.

Avoid eating, drinking or touching anything that has been contaminated with flood waters.

- Wash your hands with soap and clean water before preparing or eating food.
- Wash your hands with soap and clean water after using the toilet and changing a diaper.
- Wash your hands after flood cleanup and after touching anything contaminated with flood water or sewage.

If you are unsure if your tap water is safe, you will need to boil or disinfect it.

- Boiling tap water is the best way to kill harmful parasites, bacteria and viruses. The process is complete when the water is held at a rolling boil for at least one minute. Let the water cool before using.
- If boiling is not an option, disinfect tap water by adding eight drops of regular unscented household bleach (4 to 6 % strength)—this is about one-eighth teaspoon or a dime-sized puddle, per gallon of water. If a higher strength bleach is used (8.25 % strength), only add seven drops of bleach. Mix the solution and let it stand for 30 minutes. If the water is cloudy after 30 minutes, repeat the steps only one time.